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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. LAWRENCE).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 21, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BRENDA L. LAWRENCE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

MEMORIALIZING POLICE OFFICERS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE LINE OF DUTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today in the wake of National Police Week to memorialize our officers who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Nearly 3 years ago, on October 8, 2016, Officers Lesley Zerebny and Gil Vega from the Palm Springs Police Department were shot and killed in the line of duty responding to what appeared to be a routine domestic disturbance.

Through this tragedy, our community came together, not only to remember Officers Zerebny and Vega, but to do more for their families and the entire law enforcement community.

Together, we found that families of fallen first responders, those who gave their all to protect us all, are being shortchanged. That is why I introduced the Heroes Lesley Zerebny and Gil Vega First Responder Survivor Support Act, to honor those who have passed by serving the living.

My bill will increase the Public Safety Officer Benefit from \$350,000 to \$500,000 in order to pay off the calculated national average debt most families have; it will increase the monthly education benefit from \$1,024 per month to \$2,000 per month to ensure they can afford the actual rising costs of an education; and it will fix a bureaucratic loophole that, due to unnecessary red tape and delays in receiving benefits, can cost families up to tens of thousands of dollars through no fault of their own.

I urge all Members of Congress to do the right thing: to follow words with action, to follow praise with pragmatic solutions that will improve the lives of fallen first responders' families. I hope that all Members will cosponsor and support my bipartisan Heroes Lesley Zerebny and Gil Vega First Responder Survivors Support Act.

I urge the Speaker to bring it up for a vote immediately. Let's support this bill and stand up for the families of fallen officers who have sacrificed so much for us.

INTERRUPTED FAMILY DINNERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, a question for those watching at home.

Do you have a cell phone?

Has your family dinner been interrupted by a local call, only to realize that it was spam?

This is incredibly frustrating and becoming all too common. In 2017, under 4 percent of cell phone calls were spam. In 2018, the number jumped to almost 30 percent.

This year spam calls are expected to rise up to the point of half of all cell phone calls. That is why I am cosponsoring the TRACED Act. This bill gives the FCC broader authority to find scammers and increase penalties for those who are caught.

If you have a cell phone, this legislation will save you a lot of frustration and make those times at home with your family maybe a little bit more enjoyable.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this commonsense legislation.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DON'T TRUST
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, the American people don't trust Washington, D.C. And I know that shocks everyone, but it is a perception that every one of us deals with back home, and after what the majority party pulled last week, it is easy to understand why.

Three—get it, three—bipartisan prescription drug pricing bills made it through committee and were ready to vote on.

Now let me say that one more time. Bipartisan healthcare bills, three of them; that is unheard of around here.

But then politics got in the way. The majority decided to add an unrelated poison pill to drive away the Republican support. This healthcare package now has no chance of being considered in the Senate and will never become law.

That is why I urge the majority to bring to the floor H.R. 2700. This legislation includes only the three bipartisan prescription drug pricing bills, no poison pills.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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